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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/423,484	10/04/2000	David John Aarons	P9153	6794

7590

06/17/2002

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EXAMINER

LEE, WILSON

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2821

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lester (4,998,046).

Regarding Claim 1, Lester discloses an electronic circuit for controlling a gas discharge lamp(10) comprising a means(75) (See Col. 5, lines 50-52) for generating a high frequency pulse train for being applied to the electrodes of the lamp to light the lamp, a means(e.g. any wire between the circuit and the source that powers the circuit) for connecting the means(75) for generating a high frequency pulse train to an electrical power source(VAC), a choke(L3) to limit the current drawn by the lamp(10), characterized in that the circuit comprises a means(Q4 and Q5) for producing a first series of pulses, and a means(Q6 and Q7) for producing a second series of pulses independently from the first series of pulses, and means(T1, T2 and L3) for combining additively the first and second series of pulses to produce the high frequency pulse train (See Figure 2).

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Regarding Claim 2, Lester discloses the means(T1, T2 and L3) for combining additively the first and second series of pulses includes the choke(L3) which connects together the first and second series of the pulses(e.g. pulses from means 12 and 14) (See Figure 2).

Regarding Claim 3, Lester discloses the circuit having paired outputs(18 and 20), each pair of which provides a steady low voltage output for being applied to heated electrodes of the lam(10) (See Figure 1).

Regarding Claim 4, Lester discloses the means for combining the first and second series of pulses including an isolating transformer means(T1, T2 or L3) to electrically isolate the lamp from the power source (See Figure 2).

Regarding Claim 5, Lester discloses the means(16 and 40) for combining the first and second series of pulses comprising a first transformer(16) and a second transformer(40), the primaries of each transformer receiving respectively the first and second series of pulses, each of the secondaries having a tap(22, 24 and 48) for being electrically connected to the contacts(terminal which are connected to the filaments of the lamp) of the tap and each having another tap electrically connected to the choke(L3) (shown in a specific diagram, figure 2), so that the choke combines the secondaries and the choke(L3) in series between the contacts.

Regarding Claim 6, Lester discloses that at least one of the transformer(T2) has a secondary with a pair of taps for being electrically connected to heater elements(filaments) of the lamp (See Figure 2).

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Regarding Claim 7, Lester discloses that at least one of the transformer(T2) in which the secondary tap for the heater element(filaments) is electrically connected to one of the secondary tap for the lamp contacts(See Figure 2).

Regarding Claim 8, Lester discloses a means(76, 78 and 80) for shifting the phase of the first series of pulses relative to the second series of pulses, said means(16, 40) for combining the first and second series of pulses thereby varying the width of pulses in the pulse train(See Figure 1).

Regarding Claim 12, Lester discloses the pulse train comprising pulses of both positive and negative polarity(See Col. 4, lines 23-24).

Regarding Claim 13, Lester discloses a light fitting having contacts(wiring terminals) for the gas discharge lamp and the electronic circuit(See Figure 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claims 14-16 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither discloses nor suggests a means for detecting a variation in a supply voltage from the power source, the means for shifting the phase of the first series of pulses

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relative to the second series of pulses responding to a variation in the supply voltage so that the lamp output will be held steady as the supply voltage varies such as required by claim 14.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on 4/11/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Lester fails to disclose a means for producing a second series of pulses independently from the first series of pulses.

Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Lester's circuit means(Q4 and Q5) for producing a first series of pulses and the circuit means(Q6 and Q7) for producing a second series of pulses are entirely independent from each other. The reason is that either the first series-pulses-circuit(Q4 and Q5) or the second series-pulses-circuit(Q6 and Q7) is disable or inactivated, the other one is still independently working. For another example, the second series-pulses-circuit(Q6 and Q7) does not require any output or *series of pulses* from the first series-pulses-circuit(Q4 and Q5) in order to operate which is *not* dependent on the first series of pulses. Therefore, Lester's features meet the claimed limitation.

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Information Disclosure Statement

7. The IDS filed on 4/17/01 has been considered. A copy of IDS with Examiner's initials is hereby attached.

Remarks

8. The amended pages cannot substitute the original pages because the corresponding pages are not matched. Noted that the original pages starting from page 2A to 27 have been renumbered. For examples, pages 5, 9, 10 have been changed to pages 6, 10, 11 respectively; page 27, the abstract has been changed to page 28. A re-submission of the correct amended pages is required. Further, the amended pages are not in the proper margin. The top margin should be 1 to 1.5 inch.

Oath/Declaration

9. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

It does not include the second joint inventor, Mr. John Mullenger's signature.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Correspondence

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (703) 306-3426.
12. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.
13. Papers related to Technology Center 2800 applications may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The Technology Center Fax Center number is (703) 308-7722 or (703) 308-7724.

WL
6/6/02



DAVID VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that the statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

NOTE: Carefully indicate the family (or last) name, as it should appear on the filing receipt and all documents.

NOTE: Each inventor must be identified by full name, including the family name, and at least one given name without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial, and by his/her residence, post office address and country of citizenship. 37 CFR § 1.634(c).

NOTE: Inventors may execute separate declarations/oaths provided each declaration/oath sets forth all inventors. Section 1.634(c) requires that a declaration/oath, inter alia, identify each inventor, prohibits the execution of separate declarations/oaths which each sets forth only the name of executing inventor. 62 Fed. Reg. 52,191, 52,142, October 10, 1997.

Full name of sole or first inventor

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(GIVEN NAME)

JOHN

(INCLUDE INITIAL ON NAME)

AARONS

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(INCLUDE INITIAL ON NAME)

FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)

Inventor's signature

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Residence _____

Post Office Address _____